

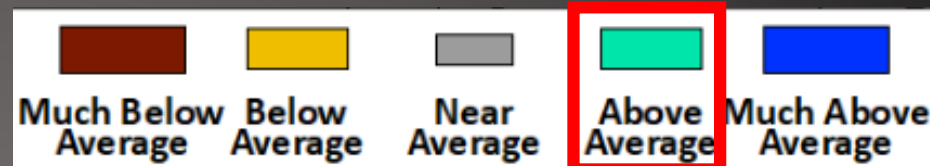
Southern Wisconsin Spring Flood Outlook

Feb 26, 2021



**National Weather Service
Milwaukee**

Key Points



- Spring flood risk is above average across most of southern Wisconsin, except average for Wisconsin River basin
 - Risk largely due to snowpack
 - Ongoing slow snow melt is beneficial, but some snow will remain into early March
 - Time period of greatest risk starts second week in March
- River and shoreline flooding possible near Lake Michigan
 - Mainly with high wind and wave events
- Break up ice jams possible: Risk is Low to Medium



Spring Flood Factors

- ✓ Deep snowpack with high liquid water equivalent
- ✓ Average to High river levels
- ✓ Average to High soil moisture
- × Deep frost depth
- ☐ Quick rate of snowmelt
- ☐ Heavy rain



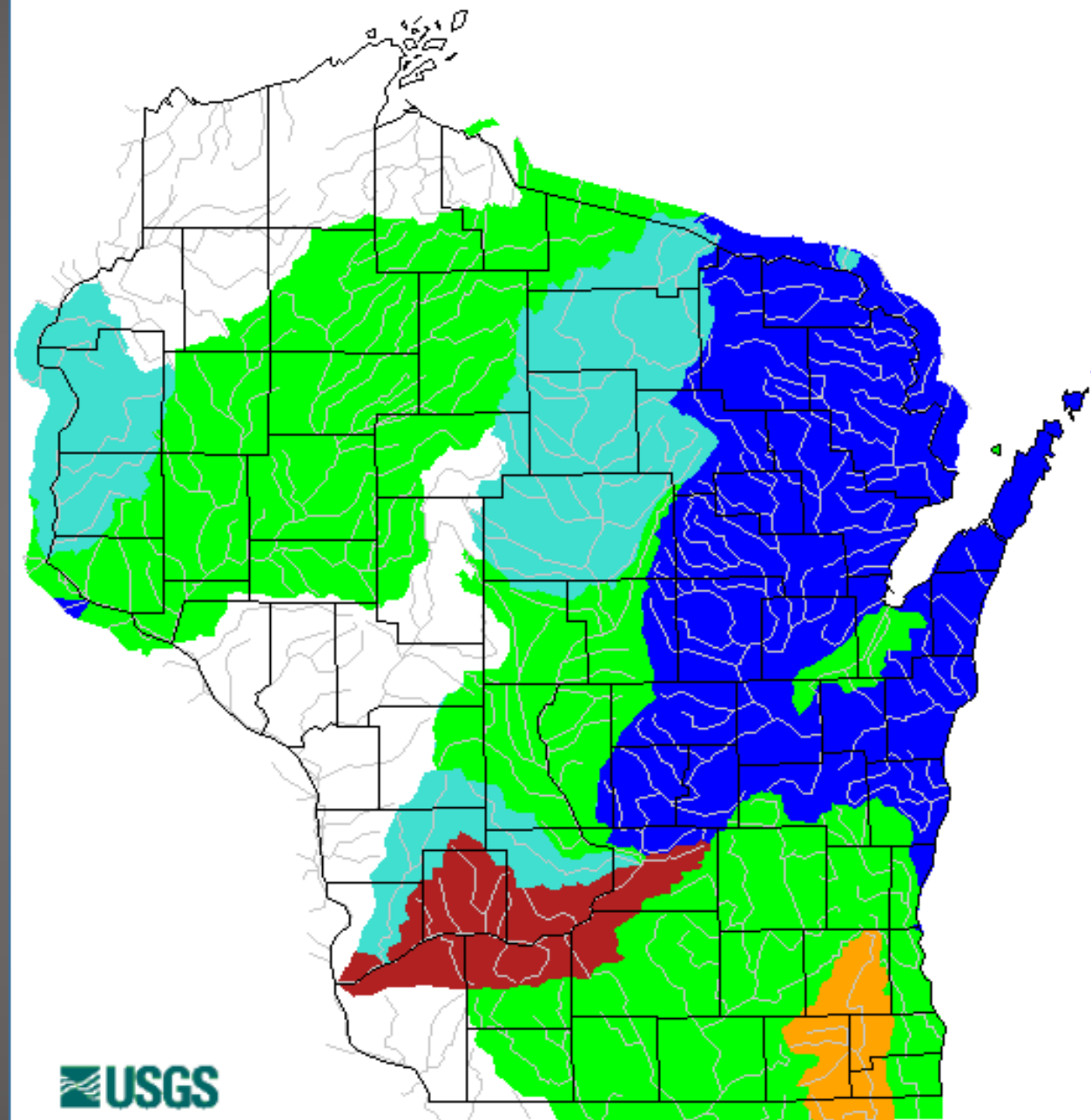
7 day Mean Streamflow Percentile

Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

Average to high streams
can hold less runoff

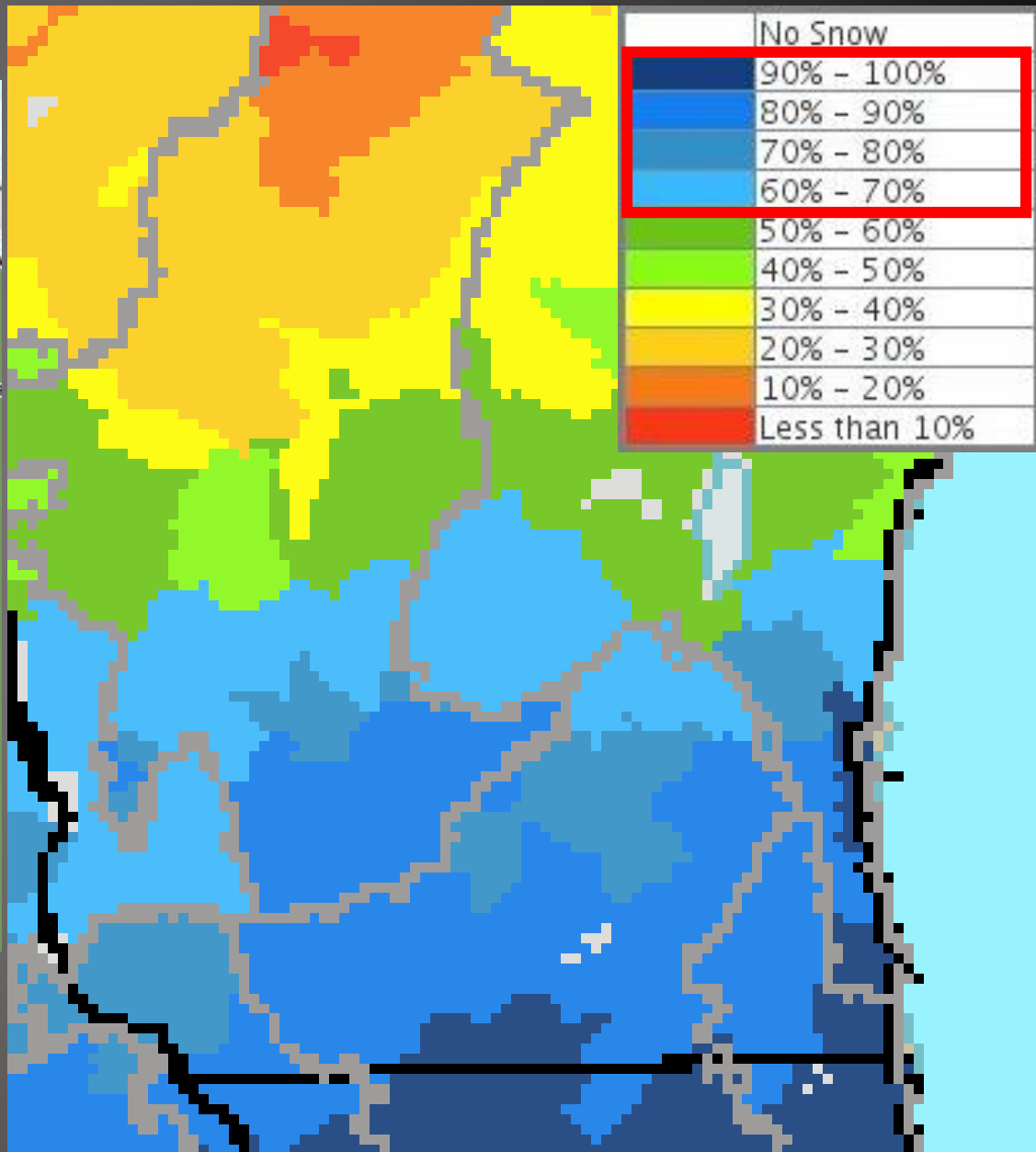
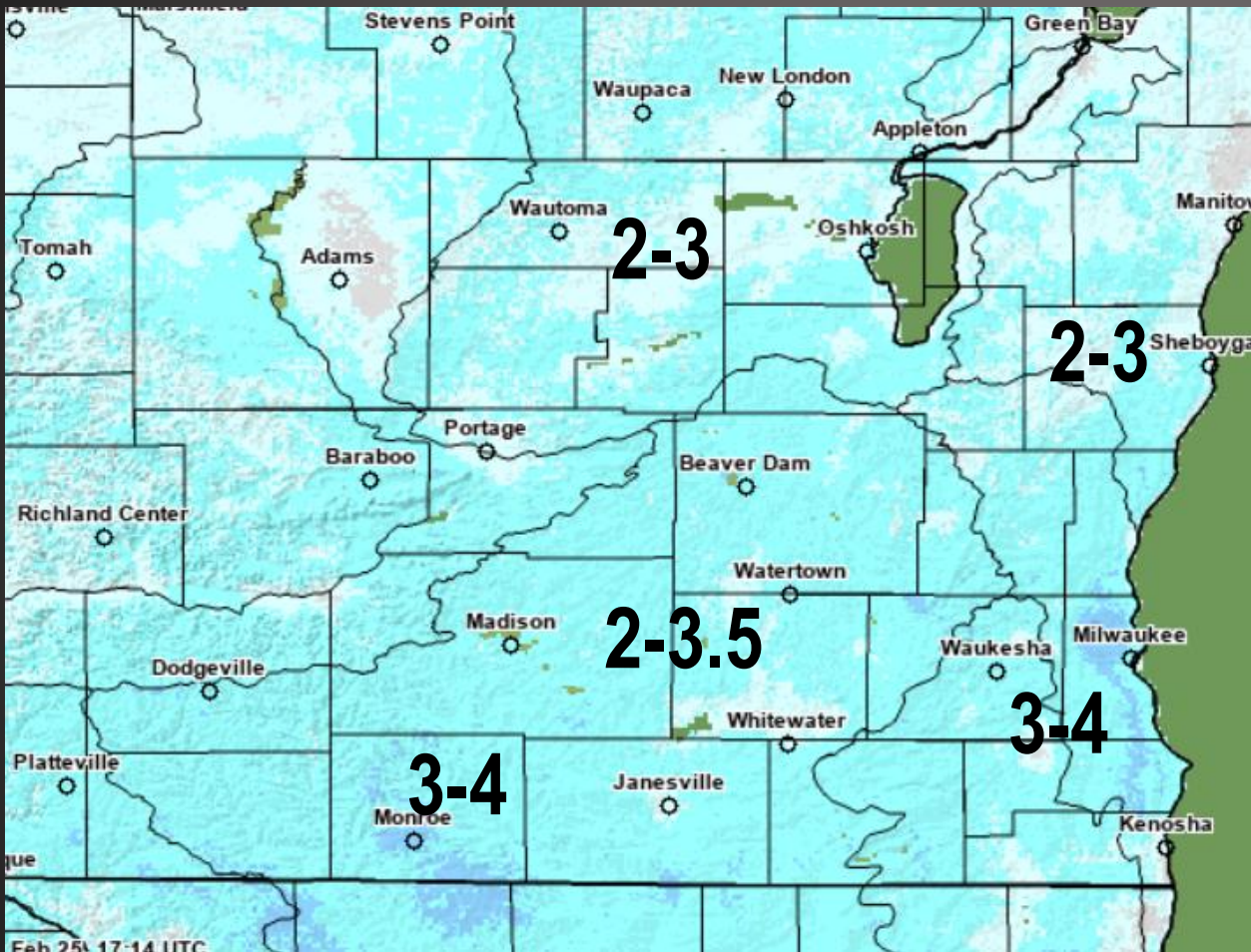


Thursday, February 25, 2021



Snow Water Equivalent (inches) 2/25/2021

Snow Water Percentile 2/22/2021



FEB 25, 2021



How Does This Compare to Last Year?

2020: High flood risk

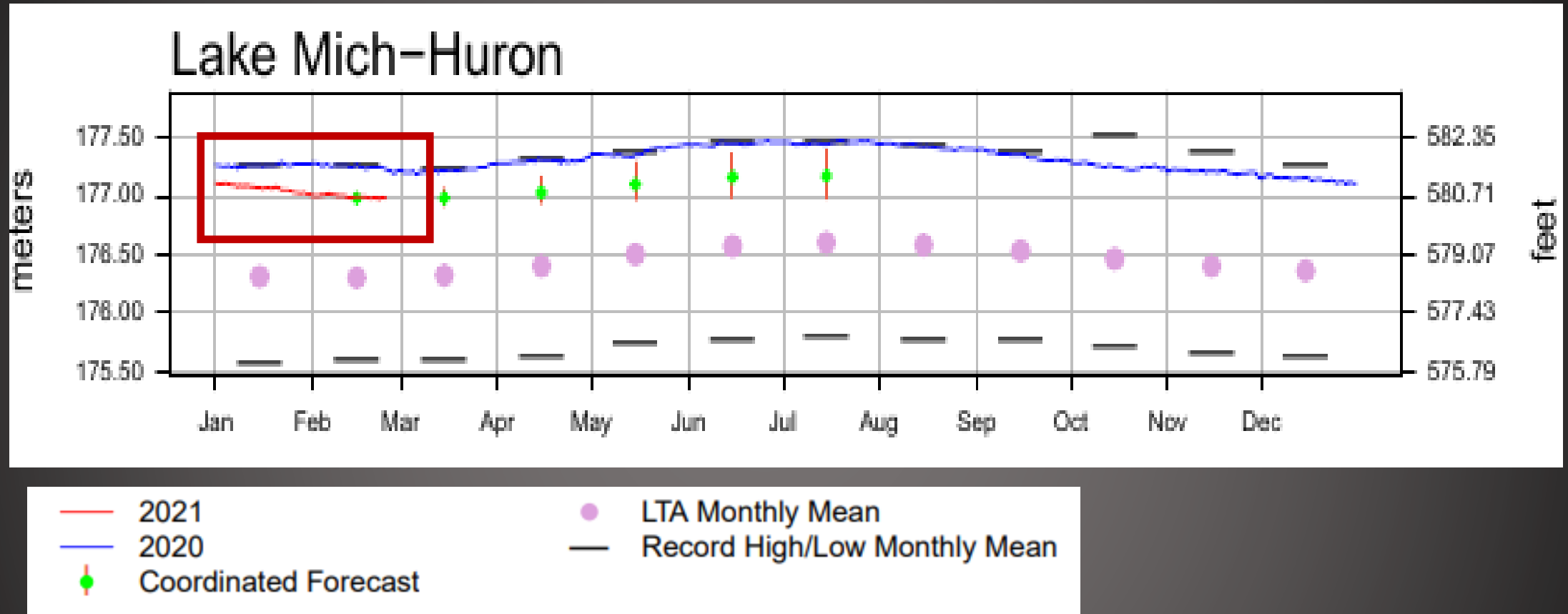
- High stream flow, high soil moisture, forecast wet spring
- Didn't get excessive snow, had an orderly snow melt. Some flooding occurred but could have been worse.

This year

- Lower streamflow and soil moisture (still elevated)
- Higher snowpack

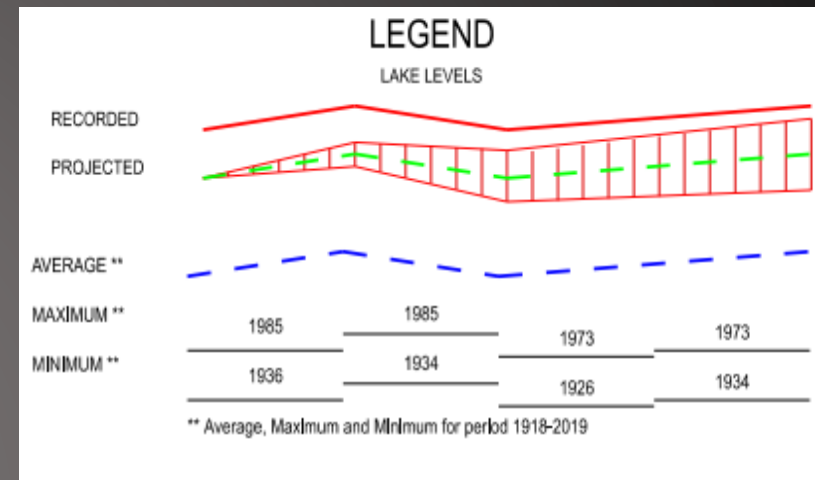
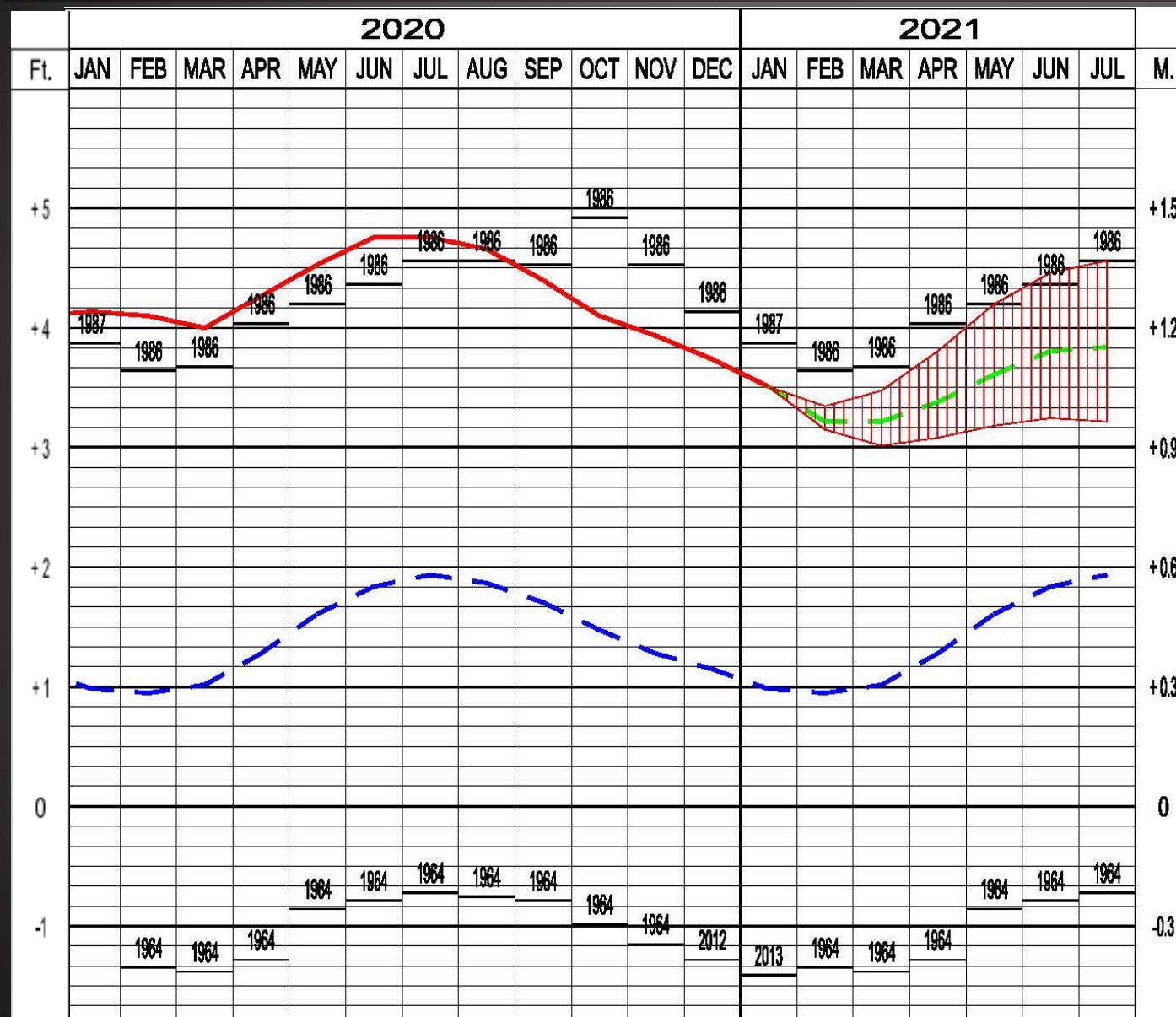


Lake Michigan Water Levels



Lake level is 14 inches lower than Feb 2020, but still around 2.5 feet above the long-term average.

Lake Michigan Forecast Water Levels



Data from the US Army
Corps of Engineers

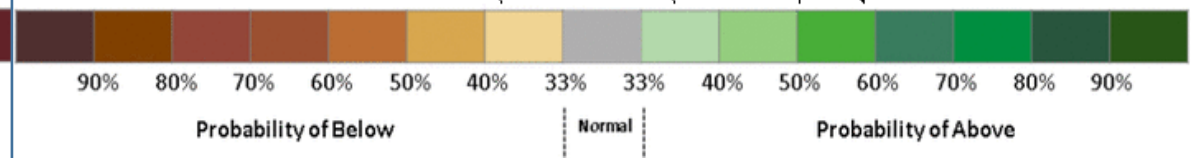
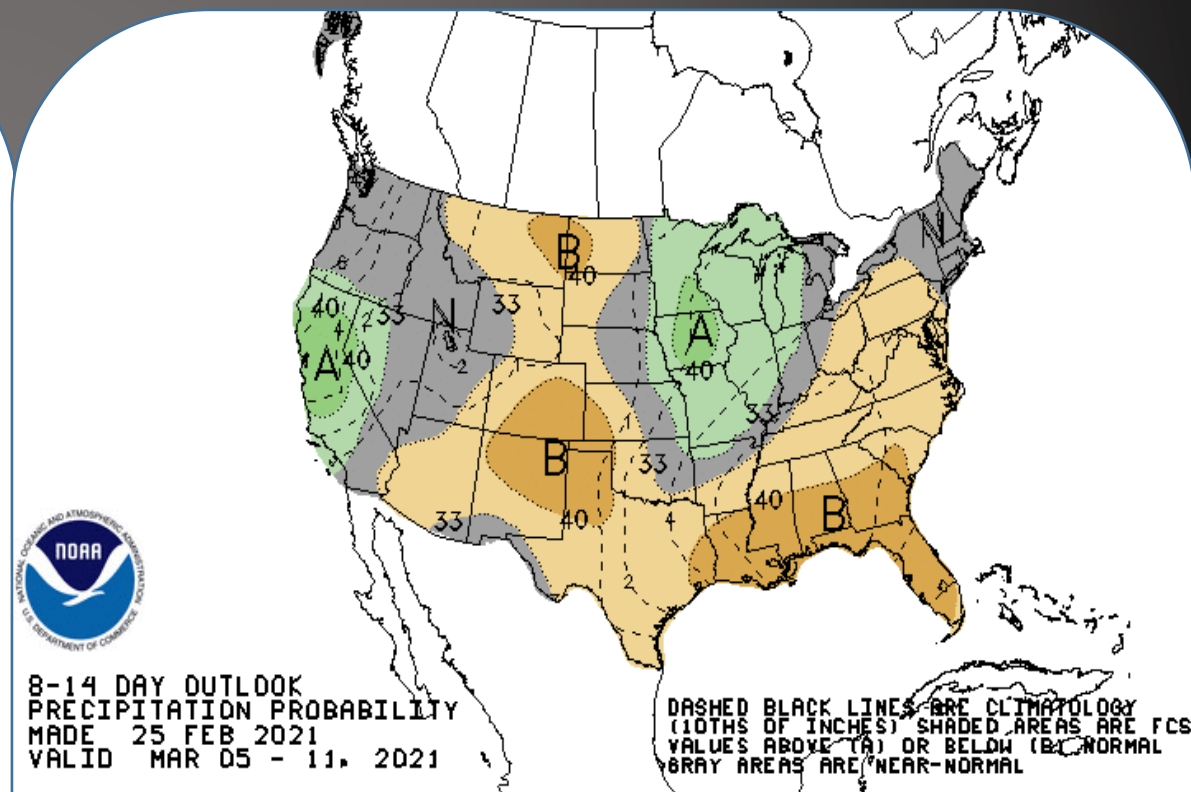
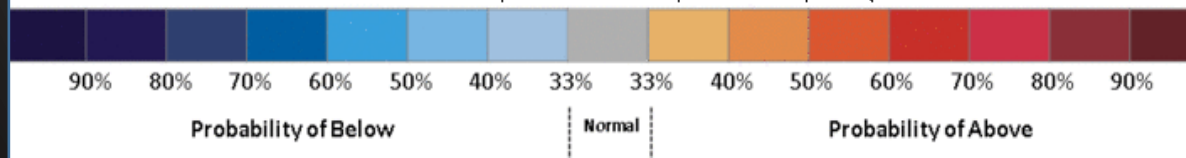
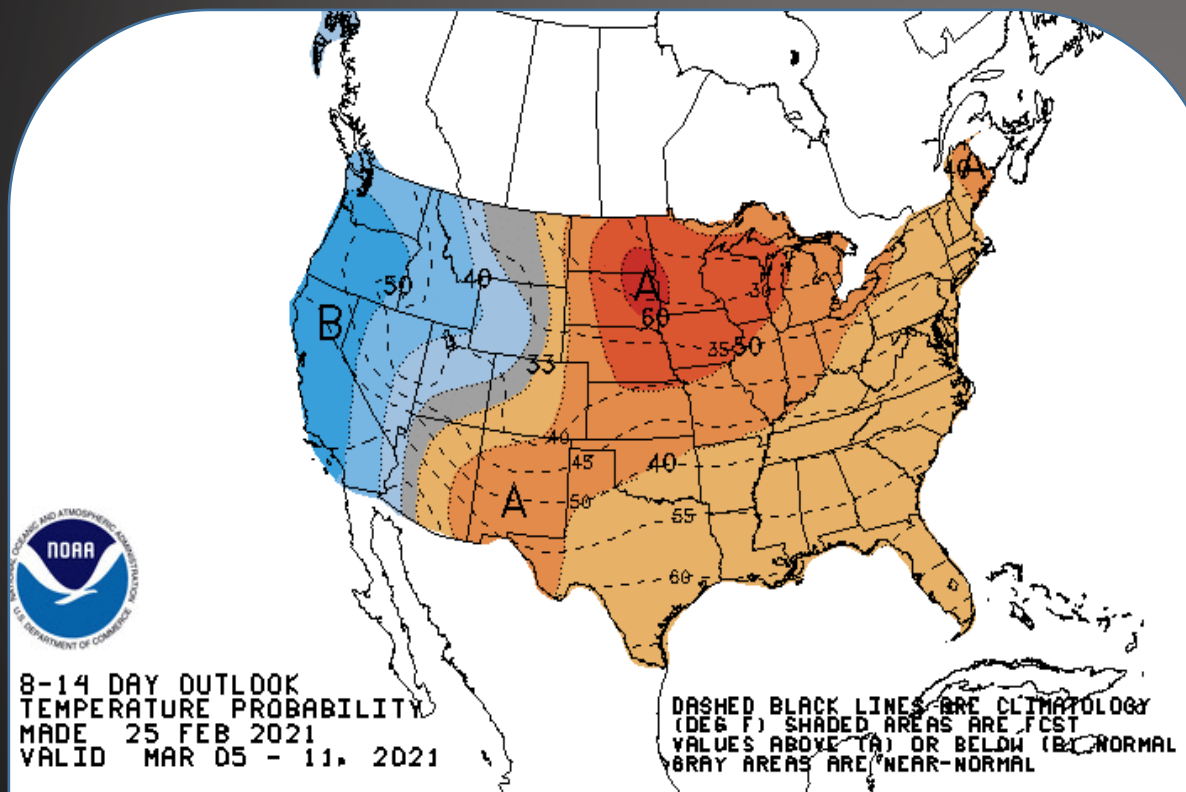


For The Next Week

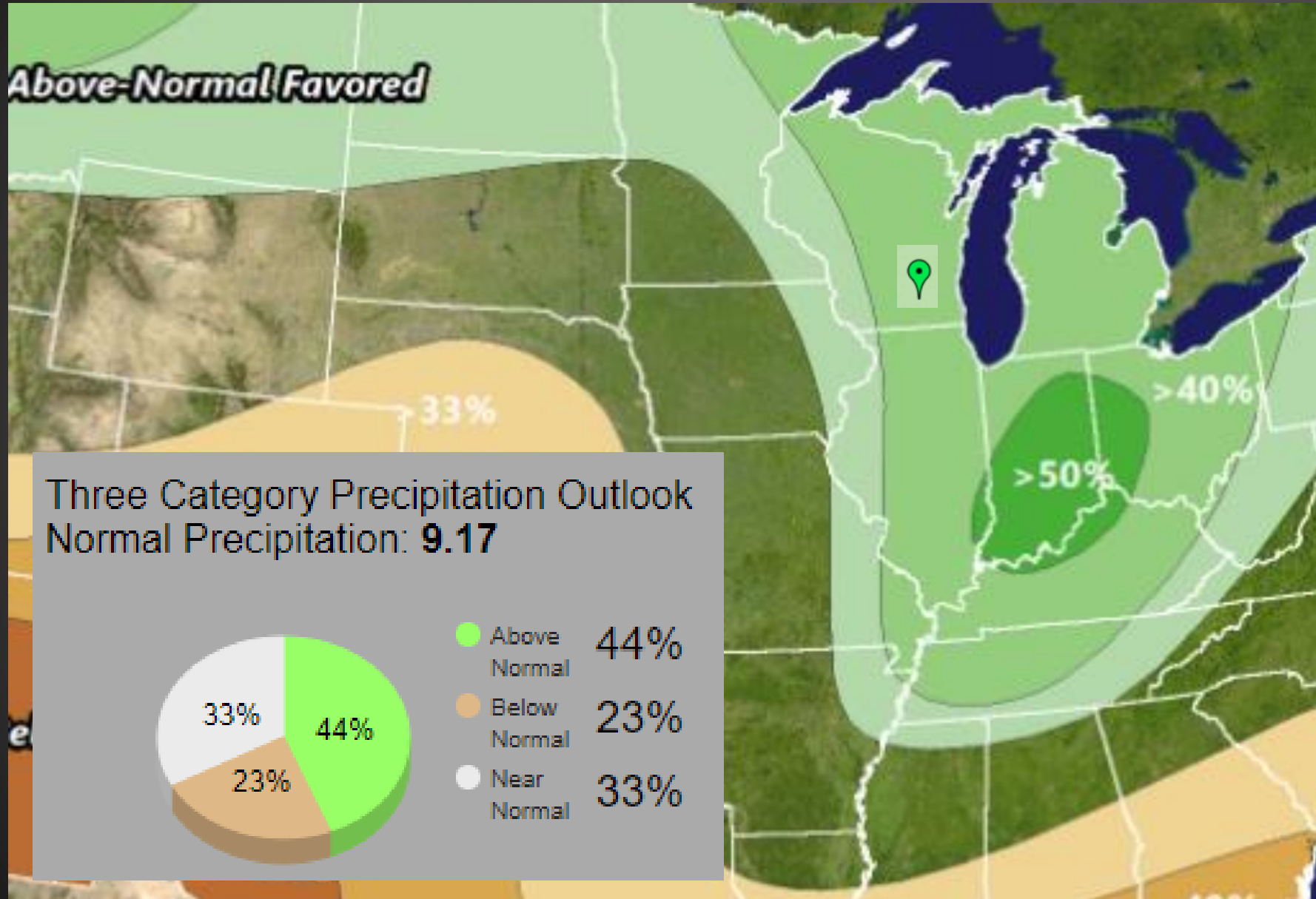
- Good scenario for a steady snow melt
 - Little precipitation
 - Highs 30s-40s, Lows below freezing



The time period to watch for greatest risk



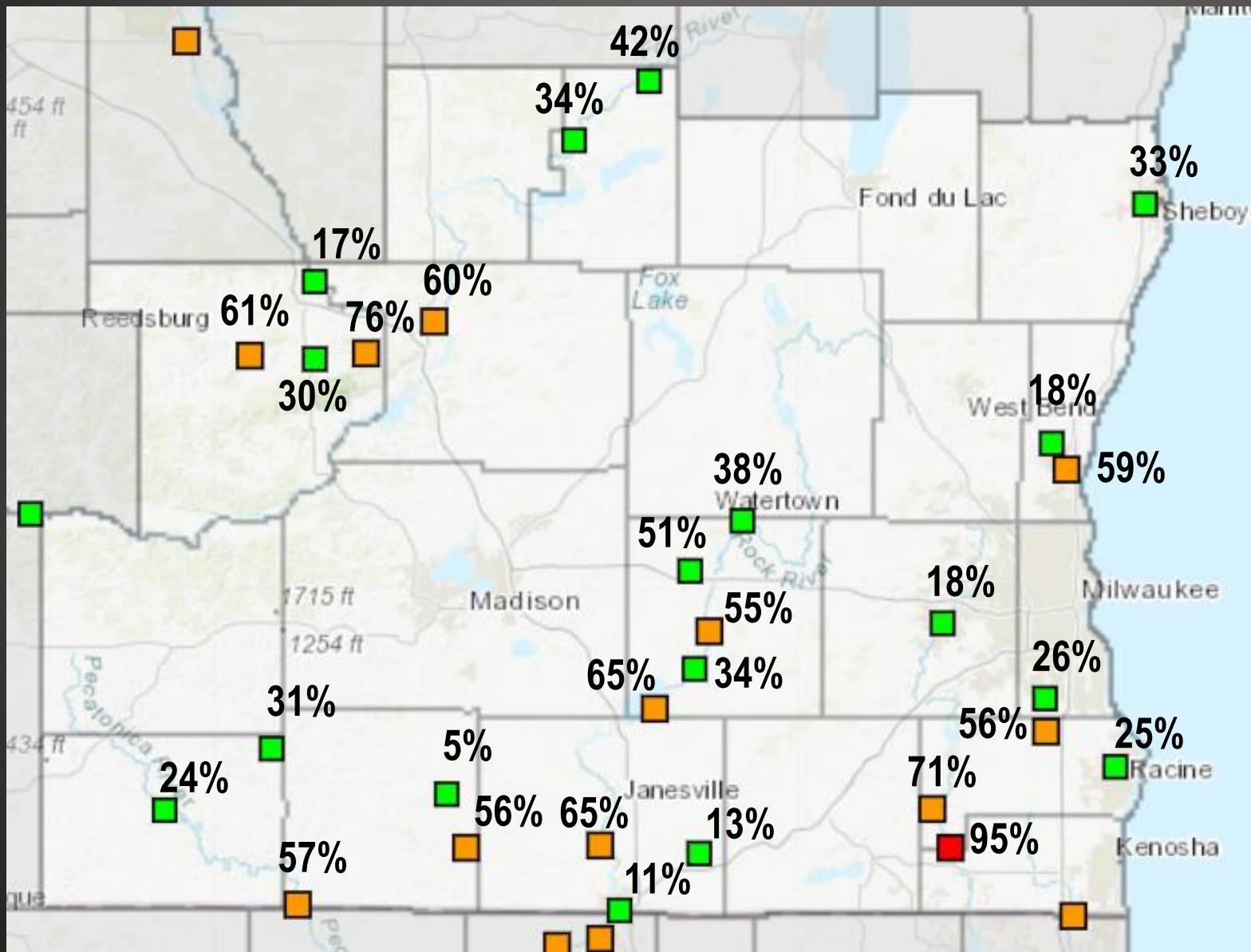
Precipitation Outlook for March-April-May Season



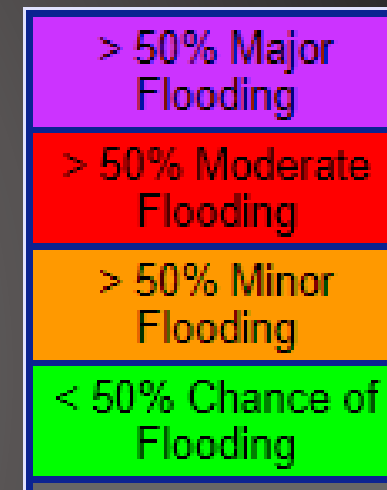
Any rain
on frozen
ground is
a concern



Chance of exceeding Minor Flood stage during March-April-May Season

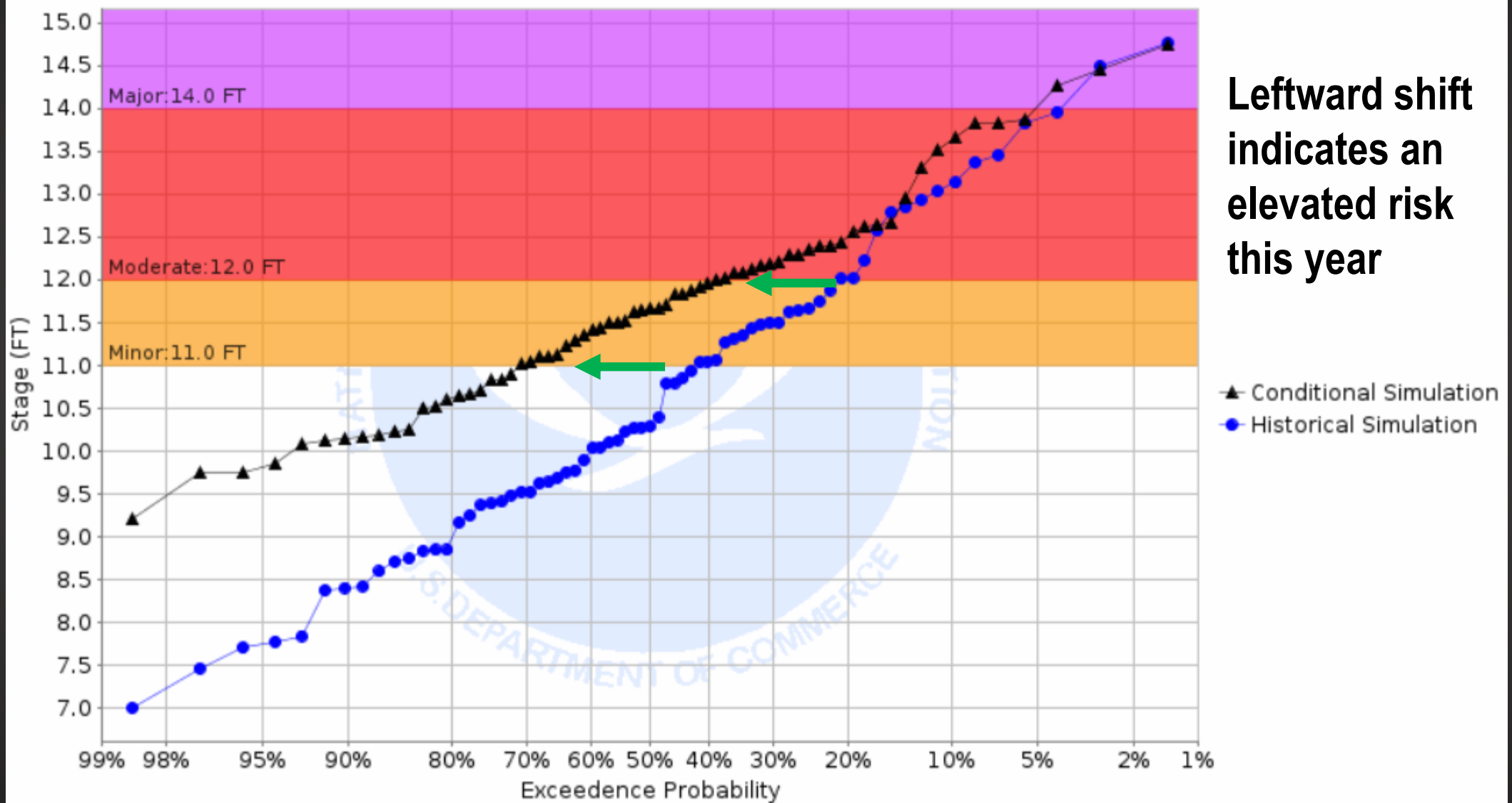


Greater than 50% chance of exceeding flood levels during March-April-May Season



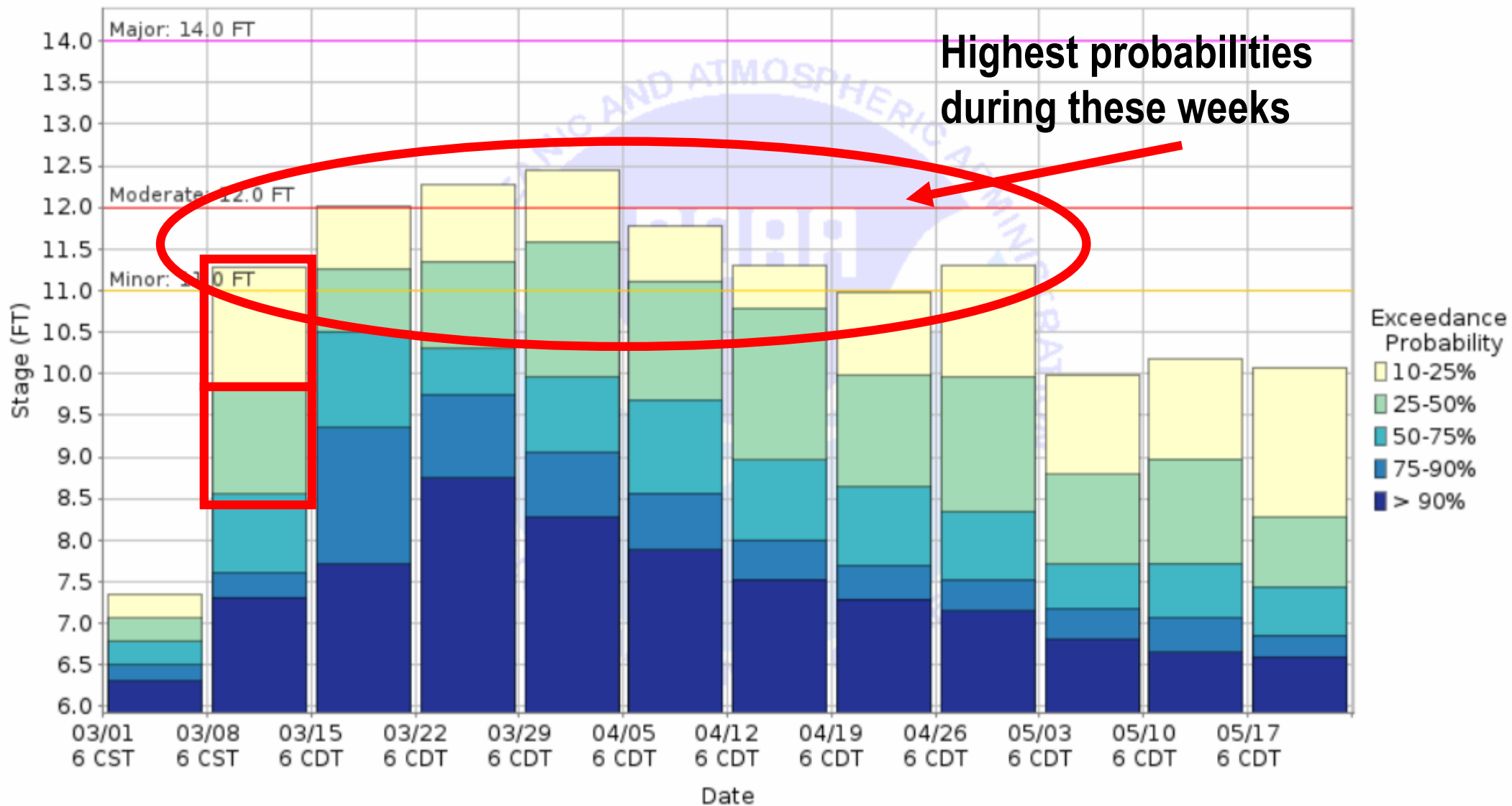
All probabilities (except Wisconsin River Basin) are higher than a typical year

Chance of Exceeding River Stage at Fox River at Burlington (BRGW3)
Forecast for the period 03/01/2021 - 05/30/2021
This is a conditional simulation based on the conditions as of 02/22/2021





Weekly Chance of Exceeding River Stage at Fox River at Burlington (BRGW3)
 Forecast for the period 03/01/2021 - 05/30/2021
 This is a conditional simulation based on the conditions as of 02/22/2021



How To Find the Probability Info

NWS Forecast Office Milwaukee/Sullivan, WI

[Weather.gov](#) > Milwaukee/Sullivan, WI

Milwaukee/Sullivan, WI

Weather Forecast Office

Weather.gov/milwaukee

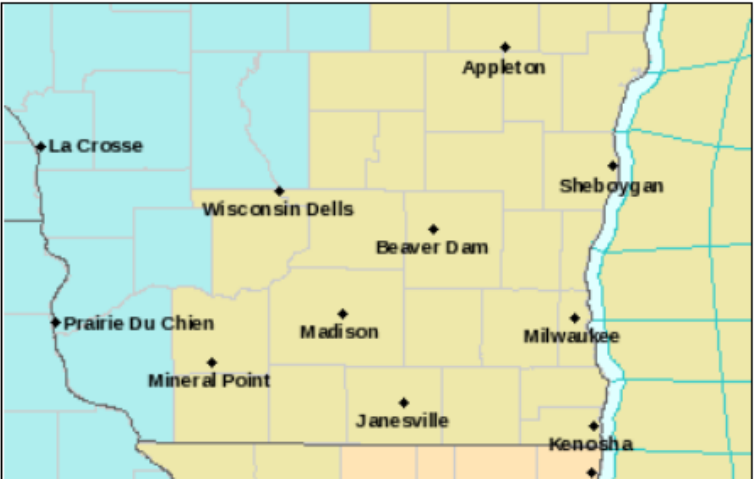
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RADAR UPDATE 7:25 AM

Snow starting to end from west to east. However, morning commute. Only minor additional accumula

Click a location below for detailed forecast.

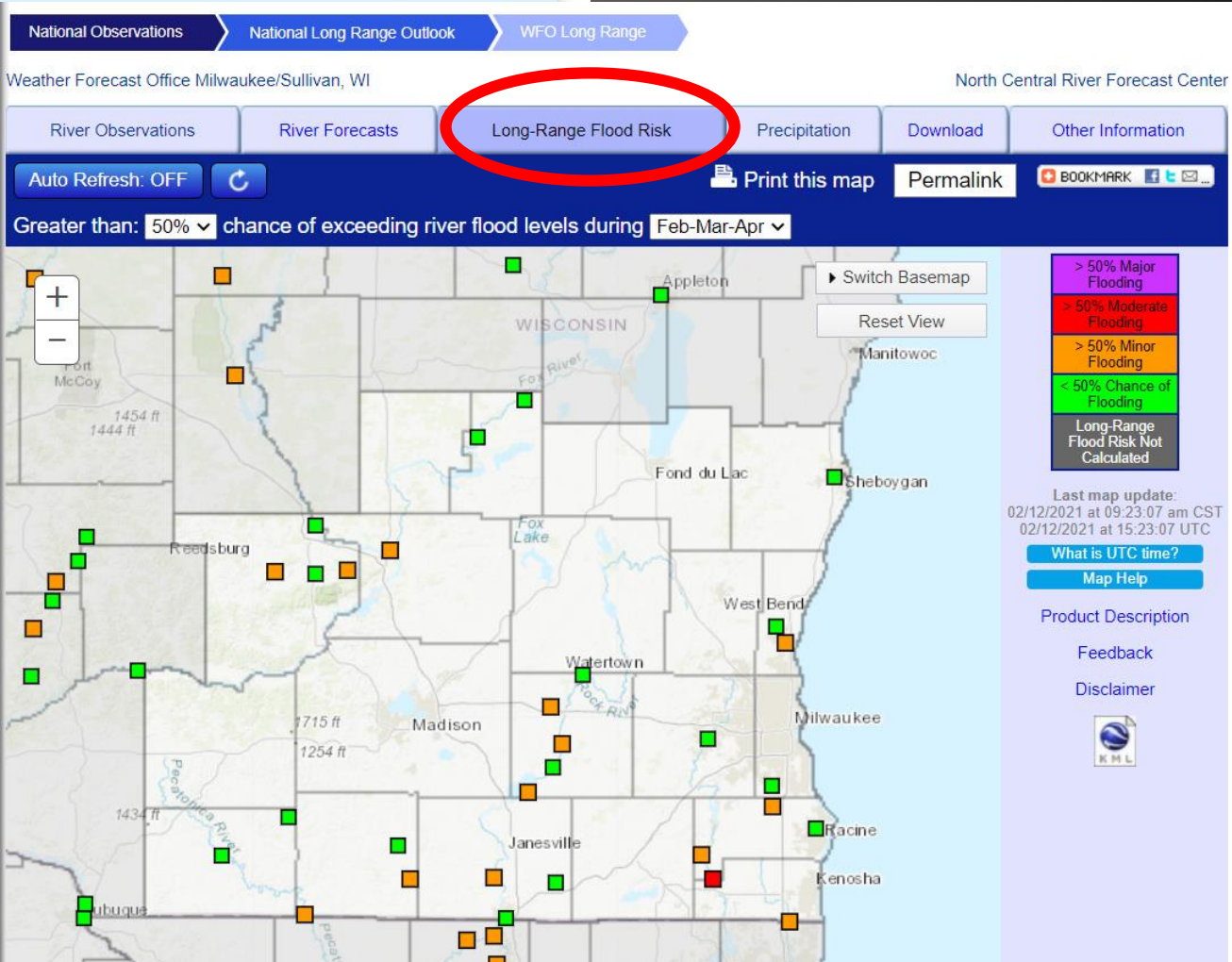


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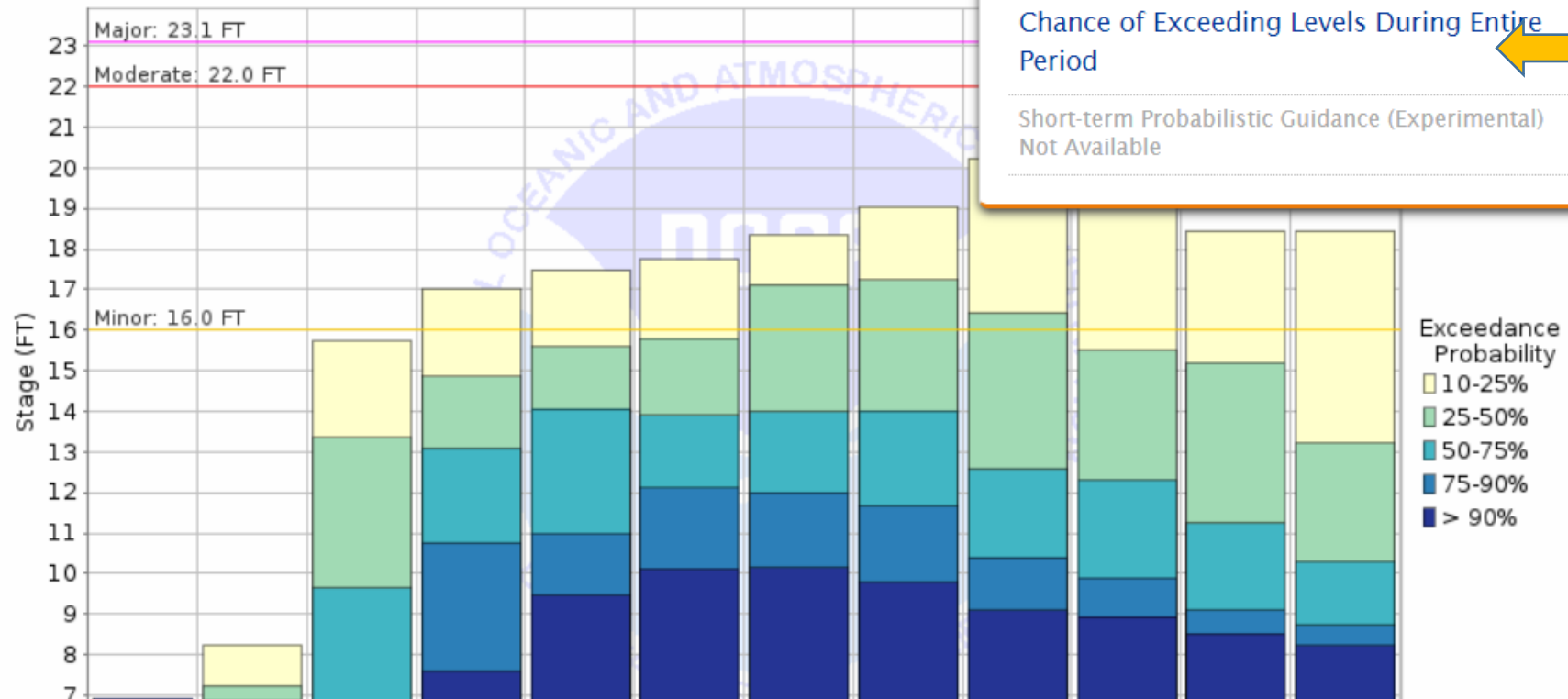
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This probabilistic forecast is issued by the North Central River Forecast Center

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Weekly Chance of Exceeding River Stage at Baraboo River at
Forecast for the period 02/15/2021 - 05/15/2021
This is a conditional simulation based on the condition



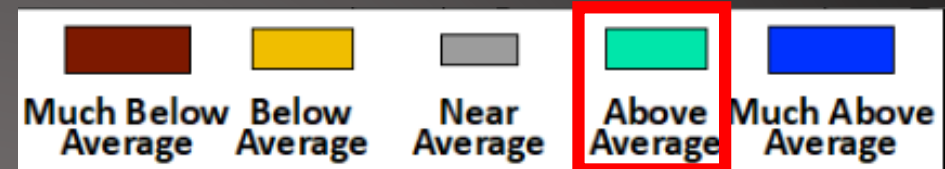
Weekly Chance of Exceeding Levels

Chance of Exceeding Levels During Entire
Period

Short-term Probabilistic Guidance (Experimental)
Not Available

WHEN

Summary



- Spring flood risk is above average across most of southern Wisconsin, except average for Wisconsin River basin
 - Ongoing slow snow melt is beneficial, but some snow will remain into early March
 - Time period of greatest risk is March
- River and shoreline flooding possible near Lake Michigan
- Break up ice jams possible: Risk is Low to Medium

**Next Update:
March 11-12**

Questions?

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NWS Milwaukee/Sullivan

